

An Act Authorizing and Regulating the Retail Sale of Marijuana

March 22, 2019

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Caroline Meyer, a RHAM high school senior in Hebron, CT and I oppose SB 1085. I am an active member in my community, particularly a community where I have seen friends in which I remember playing dolls with at a young age now becoming controlled and dependent by and on marijuana. It has come to my attention that this drug, which has stripped me of my friends, is under consideration for legalization and I don't know if I have been so scared of something. Marijuana not only is incredibly addictive and can lead to memory loss, but for the minds and well beings of teenagers, it is so much worse. Teenagers, who are already struggling with anxiety and fitting in, are turning to marijuana and have become reliant on this mind poison in making them believe they need this in order to be funny or likeable. One of my best friends, who grew up telling me every day how she wanted to become a teacher and impact lives, has been held captive from this drug and has lost interest in everyday activities and feels little to no motivation to show the world what an amazing person she is. In 2014, The Lancet Psychiatry reported that teens who smoke marijuana daily are 60 percent less likely to graduate from high school or college than those who never use — and seven times more likely to attempt suicide (Admin). This statistic is sickening as marijuana has blinded and trapped future lawyers, doctors, teachers, and CEO's from changing the world. With about 20 percent of all teens experiencing depression (Lurye) and marijuana playing a critical role in this number, teenagers today are under immense social and emotional stress to be cool and marijuana and drug use seems like the only option, making it that much more dangerous. Since as many as 6 percent of U.S. 12th-graders use marijuana daily (CNBC), it is inevitable that this number will sky rocket if legalized. By passing this law, I am scared beyond my whits of how many more of my friends will be taken from me, though not physically, even worse emotionally and mentally, as they don't know who they are anymore.

Though there is the hope that legalizing this drug will get rid of the black market and since so many people are already using it, it makes sense to just legalize it, this is incredibly dangerous. In Colorado, a 2018 investigation by Rocky Mountain PBS found legalization had caused the state's black market to expand, not contract as most had predicted (MacGuill). This is the direct evidence that shows that passing this law will be detrimental and will only make the market that much more dangerous and determined to survive in any means necessary. Coming from a state that made this choice, the ramifications and evidence against other states making the same mistake is huge. Since being legalized, there has been a doubling in the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for marijuana (MacGuill). Marijuana has already taken me away from my friends emotionally and it sure

better not take them away from me physically, which is exactly what is at risk if this law is passed. In 2012, 10.47 percent of Colorado youth ages 12 to 17 were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.55 percent nationally (MacGuill). Colorado ranked fourth in the nation, and was 39 percent higher than the national average, all due to passing this life altering law. The facts, the data, and the evidence are there and simply cannot be pushed to the side when lives are at stake. Though just turning 18, I have seen the impact and pain that marijuana has had on people in my life and as much as facts and statistics can do, seeing it with your own eyes, and seeing your best friends in front of you and yet you can tell they are lost and alone and scared, it trumps any fact. I urge you to consider these points and I thank you very much for your time. For the sake of our children, teens and babies, please vote NO on SB 1085.

Many thanks,

Caroline Meyer (RHAM student and RALLY committee member)

Citations:

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